

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] The assertion method used in the present invention is set forth in commonly assigned ~~U.S. Patent 7,096,259~~ UK Patent Application No. 9920051.1, (U.S. Patent 7,096,259 corresponds thereto) and entitled *Call Processing with Synchronized Tuple Spaces*. Use of this assertion method allows for features to be specified in the abstract, by identifying the assertions in call processing that are of interest to their operation. This also allows a feature to coordinate its operation with existing features at run-time by the issuance and monitoring of assertions. The present invention provides a mechanism to specify and regulate the coordination identified in Applicant's ~~U.S. Patent No. 7,096,259~~ copending UK Application No. 9920051.1.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following new paragraph:

[0033] The present invention is particularly helpful for making the needed coordination understandable to humans. It has been the experience of the inventors that software designers of normal skill cannot visualize the necessary cooperation between the single pre-condition type policies described in ~~U.S. Patent 7,096,259~~ Application No. 9920051.1 (U.S. Patent 7,096,259 corresponds thereto). The trees of the present invention provide users with a mechanism of describing detailed connections among policies.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following new paragraph:

[0042] As indicated above, nodes are the elements that perform actions and make observations in the system of the present invention. These operations are referred to collectively herein by the term 'node action.' There are four basic actions that a node can perform. These are:

- ASK – nodes coordinate their activity with that of other trees. In effect, a feature tree can modulate its actions from advice given by other agents. With this operator,

the node places an assertion in a tuple space that indicates its intention to perform some action (i.e. asking for permission). For permission, the node may wait a period of time for replies from any other feature that decides to advise on this intention. An internal policy is then used to decide whether or not to continue depending on the advice. This is set forth and described in U.S. Patent 7,096,259 copending UK Application No. 992005.1 (U.S. Patent 7,096,259 corresponds thereto), but expands upon it.

- STATE – a node places an assertion in the tuple space that is a notification of its intent, such as to trigger a relevant feature, etc. This is an atomic action that carries on immediately without waiting for interactions from other features.
- ACT – a node places an assertion in the tuple space that performs an action in the physical environment (e.g. make a connection, apply ringing, etc.)
- OBSERVE – a node places an assertion in the space to monitor events that indicate either states of the physical world or requests from other agents for its actions. The node looks for such physical world states as 'user off hook', 'user available', etc. It is used to look for messages of other nodes such as the intention to perform some action, the precondition for its own behavior, etc.